

Series: Living Life as the New People of God—A Study in Ephesians

## The New Life of the New People of God—Part 1

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NIV)

*So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

<sup>18</sup>*They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup>Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

<sup>20</sup>*You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. <sup>21</sup>Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

### 1. A CALL TO A NEW WAY OF LIVING.

vv. 17-19

Life apart from Christ can be characterized in the following ways:

Vanity

Darkness

Alienation

Ignorance

Hardness

Numbness

Sensuality

Impurity

Greediness

Romans 1:18-25 (NIV)

### 2. THROW OUT THE OLD AND BRING IN THE NEW.

vv. 20-24

Colossians 3:9-10 (NIV)

*Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

- The moment we come to know Christ, we are changed.
- As a new believer, we must begin the process of separating ourselves from our old self.

Romans 6:6 (NIV)

*For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--*

#### Some realities about the old self:

- The term personifies the moral and spiritual state of the pre-Christian life.
- The “old man” cannot be renewed or converted; he is under a sentence of death and is in the process of decaying.
- The only remedy is to denounce him completely.

- We can then put on the new self by the renewal of our minds.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

#### Some realities about the new self:

- The new self has been created to be like God, namely to last forever.
- The new self manifests itself in two ways; righteousness and holiness.

All of us have an evil nature as our default mode, but as an authentic follower of Jesus Christ, we are called to put away the old self and take on a new self that secures our identity in Christ.